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especial pride upon the article which puts the appointment of civil, military and naval officers upon a merit basis, and not upon considerations of hereditary rank. "This," says Count Ito, "must be considered as one of the splendid results of the Restoration."

The expositions throughout, while brief, are clear and statesmanlike, and every student will welcome the book as a valuable addition to the literature relating to Japan. It is somewhat like what our own *Federalist* might be, if brought into a more compact shape. The imperial oath, the imperial speech on the promulgation of the constitution, the imperial house law, the law of the two houses which constitute the Diet, the law of election to the House of Representatives and the law of finance have been added to the *Commentaries* by the translator.

*Japan and the Pacific*, the author of which is a student at Cambridge, England, cannot be said to take equal rank in excellence with some of the writings of the Japanese students in American colleges. The only portion of the book of especial value is Part I, which treats of Japan's future relations to other powers in the Pacific. A conflict between Russia and Great Britain for supremacy in the East, the writer thinks, will surely occur sooner or later. The island of Formosa is the Malta of the North Pacific, and England cannot obtain control until she has occupied it,—an event which Inagaki predicts as certain to occur. The advance of Russia will be through Manchooria and Mongolia to the Yellow Sea. Japan, therefore, "is the key of the Pacific." The effect of the opening of the Panama or the Nicaragua canal will be to increase materially her commercial importance, and all events are conspiring to give her a position of increasing influence in the diplomacy of Europe. The second part of the book, which is two-thirds of the whole, is devoted to an historical sketch of European diplomacy as it relates to the Eastern Question. It is a Japanese view only in that it shows a Japanese dislike for Russia's influence. The facts appear to have been carefully selected and logically arranged, but why this essay should be bound together with the first is not clear.

GAILLARD HUNT.

*An Historical Geography of the British Colonies*. By C. P. LUCAS. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1888 and 1890.—Two vols., 191, 343 pp.

In these volumes the author continues his work upon English colonization by describing the island colonies and a few of the minor settlements on the mainland, as British Honduras, Guiana and the provinces on the Malay Peninsula. The great continental dependencies and colonies are not mentioned. The reader is thus enabled to pass in review

those possessions of the British crown about which information is not very abundant or accessible. In the first volume are considered those in the eastern hemisphere, from Gibraltar to Hong Kong; the second volume deals exclusively with the West Indies. The American reader can with profit compare the development of the island colonies in the west with the larger and more vigorous growth of the settlements on the continent. The fixing of attention exclusively upon the latter obscures the treatment of the trade relations which sprang up during the eighteenth century between the two groups and extended to the states of continental Europe, as well as to the mother country.

The plan which the author follows is to outline the history of each colony, describe its government, its industry and commerce, and conclude with an account of the race elements and social condition of its population. The book is supplied with abundant maps and with bibliographies. Every page is packed with information useful both to the scholar and to the administrator. Unity is given to the treatment of the West Indies by a chapter on the general aspects and development of colonization in that region. The distinction between the methods pursued by the four nations which competed for the possession of those islands is clearly drawn. The work of Mr. Lucas is a valuable handbook and supplements in many ways the more ambitious volumes of Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Froude.

There are at present three classes of British colonies, *viz.*, crown colonies proper; colonies which possess representative institutions but not responsible government; colonies which possess both representative institutions and responsible government. Those which are described in this work belong wholly to the first two classes. By far the larger part of them are crown colonies. Of those in the old world three of the Straits settlements are governed partly as native principalities. Mauritius has a legislative council some of whose members are elected. North Borneo is administered by a chartered company. The larger of the West Indies, like the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Leeward islands and Barbados, are in the intermediate stage between the condition of crown colonies and that of fully responsible government. The first General Assembly met in the Bermudas in 1620, and a representative body has existed there ever since. Soon after 1641 an elective element was added to the council in Barbados. After the Restoration a fully developed General Assembly appears, and representative government has continued from that time to the present. Since 1871 the Leeward islands, six in number, have been governed under a quasi-federal system. The executive power is in the hands of the governor, who is appointed by the crown. With him is associated a federal executive council of twenty members, half of whom are elected by the unofficial

members of the local legislatures. This body legislates concerning certain specified subjects which affect the interests of the islands in common. Each island also has its local legislature. The capital of the group is Antigua. British Guiana is governed under a system which is much the same as that introduced during its occupation by the Dutch.

The variety of legal systems under which these colonies are administered is illustrated by the fact that in Malta the native laws which developed during its occupation by the Saracens, the Angevins and Spaniards of Sicily and the Knights of Malta, are still in force. In Ceylon, the Roman-Dutch system; in Mauritius, the French Civil Code; in the Straits settlements, English statutes, together with ordinances of the East India Company, form the basis of law. In each of the colonies local ordinances are freely issued. St. Lucia, one of the Windward islands, is the only one of the British West Indies in which the French legal system is still retained. The law of Trinidad still contains Spanish elements. The Roman-Dutch law still prevails in British Guiana. Elsewhere the common and statute law of England is in force.

The history of these colonies, as well as of those upon the American continent, has conclusively shown that the proprietary system is ill adapted for purposes of colonization. The charters to individuals or to groups of proprietors have been successively revoked and the colonies have been taken under the immediate care of the crown. It is only under this condition, whether with or without representative government, that their security and quiet has been insured.

H. L. OSGOOD.

*Les Communes Françaises à l'Époque des Capétiens Directs.* Par ACHILLE LUCHAIRE, Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de Paris. Paris, Librairie Hachette et Cie, 1890.—299 pp.

The object of the author of this work, as seen from the *avertissement*, is to place in convenient form for the general reader, as well as for the student of history, the position of the *commune jurée* of northern France. The work seems to be based on lectures delivered in the Sorbonne. While the author is careful, as so many Frenchmen seem to be, not to permit his readers to be frightened away by any claim to erudition,—which, in the French mind, would seem to be associated with the most heinous of all literary crimes, *viz.* dulness,—he has nevertheless made in this work more than one contribution to a subject which has not been investigated with the thoroughness which it deserves.

The work is of interest to two classes of readers—students of political history and students of administrative institutions. From the point of